

How NRCS Will Do Business



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Planning Course

Module 1

How NRCS Will Do Business

Objectives

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the purpose of this course.
2. Describe their expectations for the course.
3. Describe the importance of the conservation partnership.
4. List the five principles for an effective conservation planner described by Hugh Hammond Bennett.
5. Discuss the relationship between “providing technical assistance” and “conservation planning.”
6. Define the achievements of conservation planning.
7. Explain why conservation planning should be done in the field with the decisionmaker.
8. Describe the historical development and the philosophical basis for a voluntary conservation program delivered through the conservation partnership.

Planning Policy and Guidance



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Module 2

Planning Policy and Guidance

Objectives

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. List various policies relating to conservation planning.
2. Explain how policy, procedures, technical guidance, and programs fit together.
3. Explain how programs support implementation of conservation plans.

Key Elements of Conservation Planning



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Module 3

Key Elements of Conservation Planning

Objectives

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. List several key elements of conservation planning.
2. Describe several characteristics of an effective conservation planner.
3. Discuss the importance of salesmanship in the conservation planning process.
4. Differentiate the client's role from the planner's role in conservation planning.
5. Explain how conservation planning serves as both a teaching and a learning process.
6. Discuss the importance of developing long term relationships with clients, and the role progressive planning plays in developing such relationships.
7. Explain the roles of the conservation district and other partners in conservation planning.
8. Explain the differences between a conservation plan, an areawide conservation plan, and a comprehensive plan with a unit of government.
9. Diagram the relationships of the planning steps.

Conservation Planning Environment Components and Interrelationships



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Module 4—Conservation Planning Environment Components and Interrelationships

Objectives

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Explain what is meant by the phrase “conservation planning environment” and list the components of this environment.
2. Describe typical planning environment components of a farm or ranch, and categorize the components as relating to either the “family farm” or the “farm family.”
3. Identify components of a farm or ranch that are related or linked and explain why data analysis should not just focus on individual components, but should also include analysis of interactions between components.
4. Describe key resource, social, economic, and policy components that must be considered to develop a comprehensive, integrated conservation plan.
5. Describe the use of economic and social information to increase understanding of a client’s interest in conservation and ability to implement the planned resource management system.
6. Describe the use of the cultural resources mode to evaluate whether the presence of a cultural resource creates a need to modify the conservation plan.
7. Explain the SWAPA considerations included in the Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) section of the FOTG.
8. Describe how the interactions of SWAPA resources influence the conservation effects that might result from a resource management system.
9. Describe a model of a typical family farm or ranch that includes (a) business or economics; (b) family, community, and social; (c) resources or environment; and (d) policy components.



Module 5

Resource Management Systems

Objectives

At the end of this module the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the Resource Management System (RMS) process.
2. Identify the RMS tools and their relationship to the three-phase, nine-step conservation planning process.